



Tempe Public Art



John Randall Nelson

Above the Crowd, 1998

Steel, concrete, and ceramic tile

Location:

6th Street Park
521 S Mill Avenue
west of City Hall

Artist Website:

www.WhoNelson.com

Description: This project is a tribute to former Mayor Harry E. Mitchell, who is portrayed as a stilt walker to symbolize his heightened sense of potential, performance and accomplishment. The hands of the figure hold an inverted pyramid, which symbolizes the Tempe City Hall. The stilt walker stands atop a steel, concrete and tile base that acts as a timeline that represents Mitchell's 24 years of public service. The tiles contain representations of fragments of historic news articles, budgets and blueprints occurring during Mitchell's time of service to the city.

Artist biography: John Randall Nelson lives and works in Tempe, and received his Master of Fine Arts from Arizona State University. As an illustrator, painter and sculptor Nelson has seen his mixed media illustrations appear frequently in publications like *The New York Times* and *Rolling Stone*. His paintings and sculptures have been featured in numerous solo and group shows including Gallery Materia in Scottsdale, the Carter Center at Emory University and the Tamarind Institute in Albuquerque, N.M. In addition, his work is collected by both public and corporate entities, including Intel and the Perrier Corporation. He has completed commissions for the National Endowment for the Arts, the United States Postal Service and Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport, and has many other public pieces in the Phoenix Metropolitan area.

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